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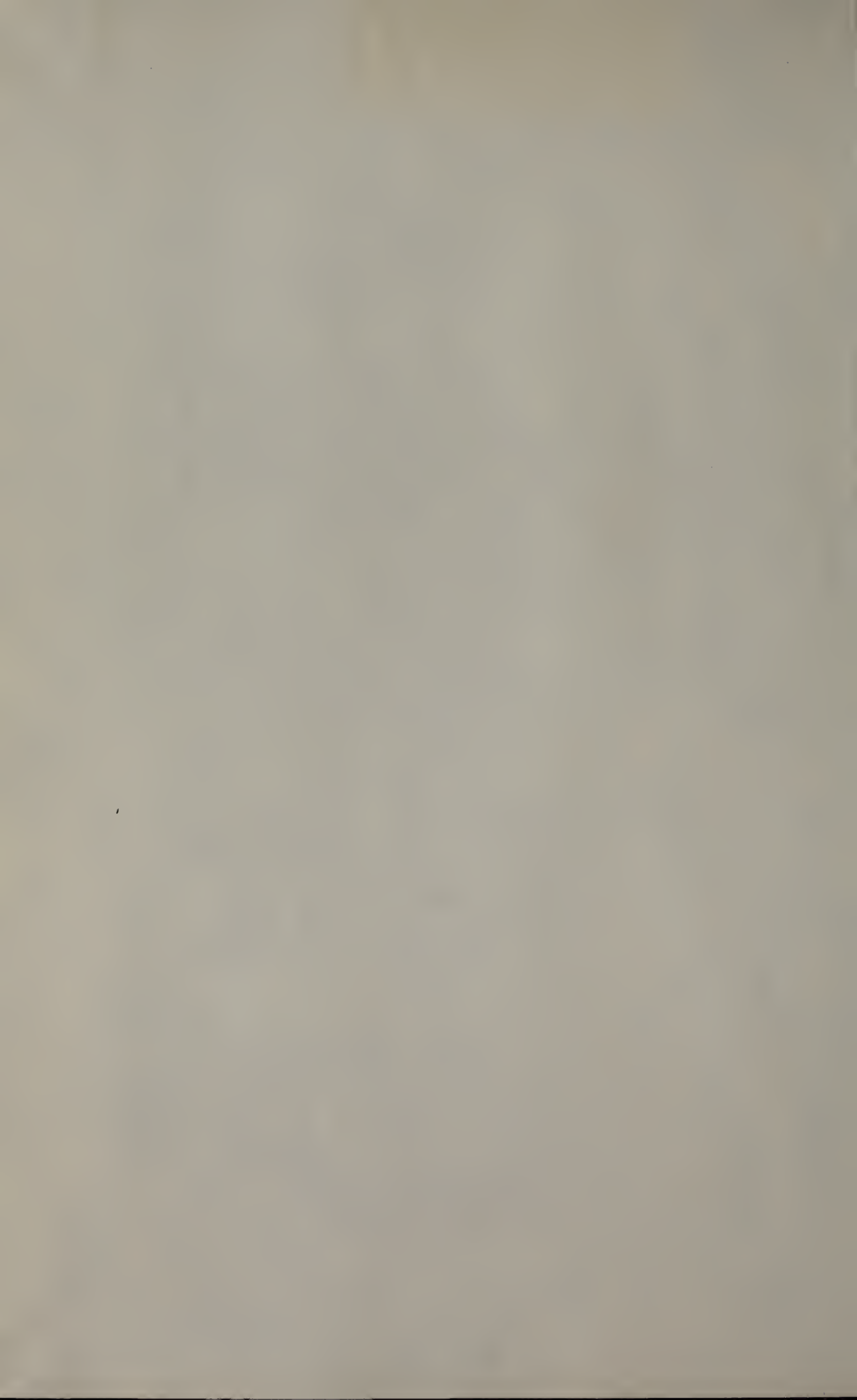
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Jacob Funck Wise—1818-1895

History of the Descendants 137
of Jacob Funck Wise

1818-1895

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MISS MARY BROWN

History of the
of the First War

If any,

Count on two days, or any more to come,
He is a fool; for a man has no morrow,
Till with good luck he has got through today.

—Sophocles

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"Of all history the most instructive to a man is his own."

—From Dictionary of Quotations by Mencken

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This family history is by no means complete or accurate in every case. Information has faded down through the years and this is an effort to bring it back, if possible.

This is a reunion of the descendants of Jacob Funck Wise, held Sunday, July 22, 1962, at one o'clock P. M. at the Lancaster Township Community Center, 3½ miles north of Harmony on Route 19.

John H. Wise*, Chairman
Charles Street, Zelienople, Pa.

* John H. Wise is the son of John Loyal Wise, who is a son of Israel M. Wise, who is a son of Jacob Funck Wise, who is a son of John Landis Wise, who is the son of Killian Wise . . before Killian, not known.

Jacob Funck Wise died December 19, 1895

age 77 - 11 months - 7 days

First wife - Mary Zeigler - age 28

died in the spring of 1850

Second wife - Sarah Moyer Wise

died October 29, 1908

82 years - 8 months - 9 days

The above are buried in the Mennonite Church cemetery north of Harmony.

The original name Weisz was changed by this branch of the family to Wise after coming to this country. Other branches continued the correct spelling.



Sarah Moyer Wise

(Most of the following written in 1947.)

HISTORY OF THE WISE (WEISZ) FAMILY

(Not complete.)

This is a story of the Wise family, their ancestors and descendants.

Our forebears stem from the German Palatinate.

Events herein described carry the record down to the year 1947.

To remind the present generation from whence it came, and to inform those now coming on with respect to their heritage, is the purpose of the information contained herewith.

Prepared solely for the edification of its members, it is, of course, a personal family account of the lives and fortunes of the Wise clan.

Such qualities as decency, intelligence, ambition and definite religious tendency seem to characterize all branches of the family, according to the evidence.

These ancestors, in an effort to improve their condition and to give their children better opportunities, left Europe to undertake in those pioneer days what were exceedingly hazardous voyages in order to establish new homes in America.

And that is how we happen to be here today.

The Weisz's originally are Hollanders. In their early life they were exiled from Holland, and fled to Switzerland, and from there to America.

These facts concerning Killian Weis (Wise), Sr., appear in the Berks County History by Morton L. Montgomery, volume 1, page 602. "Killian Weis (Wise), Sr., was born December 15, 1751, and died February 16, 1840, and was buried in the old cemetery at the Hereford Mennonite Church at Bally of which he and his wife were members. In the Federal Census of 1790, he was recorded as a taxable resident of Upper Milford township, Northampton county (a district now embraced in Lehigh county) and as the head of a family consisting of himself, his wife Catharine (nee Landis) and six sons: Jacob, John, George, Henry, Killian and Samuel (three of whom were under sixteen years of age), and three daughters: Anna (Mrs. John Ehst), Kate (Mrs. Henry Shelly) and Hannah (Mrs. Isaac Longacre)."

Four brothers landed at Philadelphia in 1725, first of the Weisz family to reach America. They were Kilyan, George, Rudolph and Jacob, settling in the upper part of Montgomery and lower Lehigh counties, and became the originators of the Mennonite church at or near Emause, about four miles from Allentown.

Of these brothers, George had a son named Killian, born December 15, 1751, died February, 1840, at the age of 88.

Killian had a son named Killian Weisz, Jr., born January 26, 1788, died December 22, 1874, at the age of 86.

Killian had a son whose name was John Weisz, born September 3, 1790. John Weisz's son was Jacob Funck Weisz, born 1818.

Jacob Funck Weisz had a son named Levi M. Weisz, and Levi M. Wise had a son whose name was John Laing Wise.

Levi M. Wise writes of his grandfather and father, as follows:

"John Wise, from Montgomery County, settled in Harmony in 1831, and followed the occupation of weaving and cloth dressing. Thence he removed to Beaver County. His son, Jacob F., who came with his father, is still a resident of Jackson Township. He settled on the beautiful farm he now occupies in 1842, purchased from John Lathan. The farm had formerly been John Zeigler's.

"Jacob F. Wise was a native of Bucks County, Pa., and moved with his father, John Wise, to Beaver County. He married a daughter of Abraham Zeigler and settled in Jackson Township, Butler County, where he cleared and improved a farm. He afterwards moved to the Zeigler farm, on Connoquenessing creek, and thence to Harmony. He was a member of the Mennonite church. By his marriage to Miss Zeigler he was the father of five children: Abraham, deceased; Nancy, deceased wife of Jacob W. Rice; John; Jacob, who died at the age of twenty-eight years; and Mary, wife of C. Nicklas of Petersville.

First Wife of Jacob Funck Wise

"Jacob F. Wise was married twice. His first wife was Mary Zeigler and as stated above had five children. Aunt Molly Nicklas was the youngest of the lot and she had four children: C. W. "Coon" Nicklas, who had Gretchen, Naomi, Mary Olive and Wilma May. Then Jacob who had two children, Alberta and Genevieve. Then Ferd, who had Gertrude and Levi, and her last child was Bertha, who had Jean, Joseph and Dorothy. The oldest son, Abraham, died

at about two years of age. Nancy had several children. The twins (John and Jacob) both died at approximately 28 years of age. No known children.

"Some years after the death of his first wife he married Sarah, daughter of Benjamin Moyer, of Lancaster Township, to which union were born ten children: Alfred M. and Henry M., both residents of Harmony; Benjamin, of New Brighton; Susanna, wife of Jacob Fiedler of Harmony; Levi M., an attorney of Butler; Israel, who resides upon the homestead farm; Sarah, wife of James R. Moore of Allegheny; Jeremiah, deceased; Catherine, deceased wife of Edward Stauffer of Harmony; and Noah, who resides at New Brighton."

Mary Zeigler-Wise Nicklas of Connoquenessing, oldest of fifteen children born to Jacob Funck Weisz of Harmony, and a half-sister of Levi M. Wise, gave some impressions of Grandfather Weisz in her "Common Place Book."

She said that, "Away back some seventy-five years ago Grandfather Weisz was something of a drover, which means he raised cattle, bought some from his neighbors, and then, with his older sons to help him, took them over the mountains to Philadelphia markets. The trip took many weeks, and the drivers spent the nights by the roadside, always guarding their cattle.

"Then at least once he collected a large number of turkeys and took them in the same fashion to Philadelphia. One would think that by the time a turkey had walked from Harmony to Philadelphia his flesh would be about worn off and the little left would be pure sinew. There is no record of the money returns from this trip. Mollie said the turkey drivers explained that in the late afternoons the turkeys would begin to take to the trees and bushes by the roadside and give definite notice that they were tired out and ready for the night's rest.

"Then very early in the morning the turkeys were ready for breakfast. The men had to get up when the turkeys did or the flock would be scattered."

It is wonderful to compare present-day methods of meat distribution with that of seventy-five years ago.

"Grandfather Weisz had none too tight a hold on his temper, and at the time of the fire at the old homestead farm near Harmony

he was trying to save the furnishings. He got up on a ladder to rescue the valued family clock. It was heavy and big, and after he got it in his arms, no help came at once to get it. Grandfather yelled for help, but no one came, so he threw it to the floor and it never ticked again."

Grandfather Weisz did heavy work and heavy lifting all his life. In those days a farmer took pride in his physical strength. He was short, stocky in build, and in his broad-brimmed hat appeared what he was—a typical German Dutch Mennonite farmer.

Under date of June 10, 1931, Mrs. Levi M. Wise wrote this in her journal: "Jacob Funck Weisz first married a daughter of one of the original settlers in Harmony, a Miss Zeigler. She bore him five children; two boys were twins; then died of tuberculosis, which was in her family. All her children died in early life except the first born, Mollie Weisz Nicklas, who still was living at 82.

"Jacob Funck Weisz looked about at the time of the death of his wife for some young woman to step in to care for his family of babies. He found her in a neighbor's home and later married her, Sarah Moyer. She bore him seven sons and three daughters.

"Grandmother Weisz was a lady, always kind, pleasant and considerate. In the big family connection she worked for peace and, insofar as I know, she was a woman without faults, tall, blonde, strong and good looking. She once told me that during all the early years of her married life she could 'work and sing all day long.' This was about the ideal for a Dutch farmer's wife in those days. She was the grandmother of my sons. She died at 82 years of age and was buried in the Harmony Mennonite cemetery."

Our uncle, Israel M. Wise, has submitted the following:

"The Wise family is of German extraction. It was established in Bucks County, Pa., by the Great Grandfather Wise.

"John Landis Wise, our grandfather, was born in Bucks County, Pa., in 1790. Around 1821 he packed his family and belongings into a covered bolster wagon which was pulled either by a team of horses or oxen. I am not positive which it was. I remember hearing them say it took them a week or ten days to come over the mountains. They landed in Beaver County on a farm which he bought. Later it was owned by one of his sons, John Wise. It was here John

Landis Wise died on August 28, 1856, at the age of 65 years. His wife, Mary Funck Wise, died August 30, 1870, at the age of 79 years. To this union eight children were born.

"Jacob Funck Wise was born in Bucks County, Pa., January 12, 1818, and accompanied his parents to Beaver County, Pa. He was then about three years old. When he grew up to manhood he came to Jackson Township and worked for Abram Zeigler the second. Subsequently he married his daughter, Mary Zeigler. To this union there were five children born. His first wife, Mary Zeigler Wise, died in 1850 at the age of 27 years. He then married Sarah Moyer, daughter of Benjamin Moyer of Lancaster Township, and to this union were born ten children. Jacob F. Wise was the father of fifteen children. He died on December 19, 1895, at age 77. Sarah Moyer Wise died October 29, 1908, at age 83."

This statement was found among the effects of Levi M. Wise:

I propose to write a short sketch about Harmony and the vicinity, on this 28th day of August (year not given) at my office on the northwest corner of the Diamond, Butler, Pa.

The past week the citizens of the community have celebrated an "Old Home Week" at which John S. Duss, at one time a trustee of the Economite Society, spoke for two hours in the German Reformed Church at Harmony, in which he gave an extended history of the Harmony Society. John H. Wilson and J. M. Galbreath spoke in the evening of Thursday, August 26.

The reunion of the first settlers or old families of Harmony was held on Thursday, August 26, in the orchard of G. M. Zeigler, at the Harmony bridge. Addresses were made at the reunion by Professor J. C. Tinsman, now of Kittanning, Pa., and by Levi M. Wise of Butler, Pa.

At the Reformed Church, Duss gave a general history of the Economite Sect, showing the different towns which they had built, their manner of carrying on the business of the Society, and many other of their characteristics.

The Economites, of which George Rapp was the leader, came to Harmony in the early part of 1805. He came from the Rhine country of Europe. He was born in 1757 and died August 19, 1847, at Economy, Pa., where he is buried. He had two children, a son, John, who came to maturity and was married and was the father of two children. He was injured in one of the mills at Harmony and died before he had reached the age of 25 and is buried at the Economite Cemetery at Harmony. One of his children remained a member of the society until she died and is buried at Economy. She grew to be about seventy years of age and had never married. She was one of the leaders of the Society and developed into quite a business woman, and had charge, in her time, of the silk manufacturing establishments.

The followers of Rapp acquired a number of tracts of land at Harmony, after their arrival there and, in 1815, when they sold all their possessions at Harmony to Abraham Zeigler of Lehigh County, they were the owners of between seven and eight thousand acres of land. In the early times land was not measured very accurately and there was always considerable allowance for roads and other open-

ings, so that the acreage called for in the deed to Zeigler was then 7,000, but he really became owner of 8,000 or more acres, for which he paid to the Harmonites the sum of \$100,000, which consideration is named in the deed in which the land is described.

The Harmonites had concluded to leave Harmony before they had obtained a purchaser for their land. They alleged that they wanted a place where they could ship what they manufactured on water. During the time that they were at Harmony they became quite extensive manufacturers and from that place they were required to market what they manufactured by wagon Road. Pittsburgh, which was about 32 miles distant, was the nearest market. After they had decided to obtain another location, they had sent out explorers and in due time they concluded to purchase a site at New Harmony, a point on the Wabash river, some seventy miles above where the Wabash empties into the Ohio river. New Harmony is located in Posey County, in Indiana, a county that occupies the extreme southwestern portion of Indiana state, and lies between the Ohio on the South and the Wabash on the West. The Ohio river can be entered at one point less than 20 miles distant from New Harmony. At this place they finally obtained about 30,000 acres of land. Most of it they obtained from the government at \$2.00 per acre, but other portions were obtained from settlers, for some of which they paid as high as \$8.00 per acre.

While at Harmony they cleared large portions of land and built the town, which included a number of large brick buildings and houses, all of which are still standing. They also built a number of large grist mills and granaries and saw mills. They had a number of machine shops and large blacksmith shops.

After they had acquired their land at New Harmony, they advertised their holdings at Harmony for sale. One of these advertisements appeared in the Philadelphia Press, and the attention of Abraham Zeigler was called to Harmony and the tract he afterwards acquired. The advertisement was dated June 7, 1814. It is supposed that in the fall of the same year Abraham Zeigler came to Harmony and made his contract of purchase with the Economites. Before this, however, possibly about half of the families had gone to New Harmony, but others, including Frederick Riedert Rapp, remained at Harmony for the purpose of selling their property.

There does not seem to be any papers showing whether the articles of agreement between Zeigler and the Economites was entered into in 1814. Zeigler is supposed to have returned to his home in Lehigh County and, subsequently, in the spring of 1815 arrived with his family at Harmony. The deed executed by Frederick Rapp, attorney-in-fact for the Harmonites, is dated May 10, 1815, so that he is supposed to have returned to Harmony before that date. Michael Zeigler says that he remembers that his father, Abraham Zeigler, son of Abraham Zeigler the first, told him that they came so late in the spring season of 1815 that they did not do any planting, except the planting of some potatoes in a field above the Harmony Commons.

Little is known as to how they came from Lehigh County to Harmony, but all of the children of Abraham Zeigler were born in Lehigh County. His youngest son, Rev. Joseph Zeigler, was born there in March of 1815. John was the name of the oldest son of Abraham Zeigler and he was about 16 or 17 years old when they came West. Abraham was the next oldest, and he was 15 or a little over at that time.

There doubtless were in the caravan several large covered wagons, possibly afterwards known as Conostoga wagons, in which the members of the family were conveyed. At that time it was customary to have four horses hitched to a large wagon and there were possibly two of these wagons, to each of which were hitched four horses, and these boys each riding a saddle horse. Leading this caravan we can imagine old Zeigler driving one of the horses in an old-fashioned buggy, probably a surrey, and setting the pace. The distance which they would be compelled to come 100 years ago would be fully 350 miles. They would likely go to Philadelphia from Lehigh County south, or possibly a little southwest, and a distance of 60 miles. From Philadelphia they would likely come by way of Pittsburgh, over what was afterwards known as the National Pike. From Pittsburgh they would be required to find their way to Harmony, a distance of 32 or 35 miles, and located northwest of Pittsburgh.

Much of this road they travelled was little more than a mere bridle path and one would naturally think it would take them 40 days to travel that distance. Doubtless it would take at least a

month and it would likely take more than 15 days thereafter. Their wagons would likely be laden with many things they would want to bring with them, as household utensils, stoves, bedding, linen and clothing. They would also likely bring farming utensils. At any rate, we can imagine that the two wagons were loaded heavily. There is no record of how many pieces were in the caravan. There is no record of who came or how many. If Zeigler and his wife and family alone came, there would be at least 16 or 17 persons. Zeigler is supposed to have had \$27,000 in cash. We imagine that they carried this in the surrey in which he and his wife and their youngest child came and it was likely in specie, nearly all of it in silver, and was likely stowed away securely under the seat of the surrey, in bags. He had sold his farm in Lehigh County at the close of the second Revolutionary war, and we are told that he received "war prices" for it and for his stock. All this money he brought to Harmony and is supposed to have used it in the purchase price of the livestock, sheep, cattle, horses, and farming utensils, as well as the payment of the machinery in the factories, including machine shops and other manufacturing establishments. It seems that a portion of this sum was applied to the purchase price of the land, which we are told aggregated \$100,000.

A mortgage was executed by Zeigler to Frederick Rapp, agent for the association. It was dated on the date of the deed, May 10, 1815, and is recorded at Butler in mortgage book one, page 76. The sum he agreed to pay by the provisions of the mortgage was \$100,600, and was payable in installments: \$20,000 was payable April 1, 1816, and \$10,000 each year thereafter until the entire sum was paid, the last sum being payable April 1, 1824. Accompanying the mortgage there were nine bonds for the sums named.

A short time after Zeigler arrived at Harmony, others came from the East. Rev. John Boyer came a year or two, subsequently, and purchased from Zeigler 1200 acres of land for \$17,640. This land lay north of Harmony and was the northern portion of what Zeigler had acquired. It included all of the land of a line running east and west along the lands of Wise, and two direct lines east as far as the land extended, and also a direct line west, and included what was known earlier as the David Stauffer lands, the Samuel Wagner lands, and what was known as the Rennesdale and the farm

owned by Sawmill John Zeigler. Abraham Zeigler died in 1836, and left to survive him 11 or 12 children.

William Peffer, born in 1828, attended the reunion held at Harmony August 28, 1835, and stated that he saw Abraham Zeigler a corpse lying in his home, a large brick house located at the southeastern portion of Harmony, known as the William M. Zeigler property, and owned at this time by Norman J. Boyer. He was seen by Mr. Peffer, who was then eight years old, lying a corpse in the front room upstairs, the room fronting the Diamond. Mr. Peffer stated that his mother and he went to his house to see the body of Mr. Zeigler and he recalls the conversation that took place between his mother and others, and also subsequently averred that Mr. Zeigler died from what was then called a cold on his lungs. He had been engaged in the construction of a dam across the Connoquenessing creek a little below Zelienople, at what was then known as Herr's mill; Mr. Herr having married a daughter of Zeigler the first. Afterwards the mill was known as Seidlers mill and was so known until 1895, when owned by C. B. Harper. The dam is still standing but has been reconstructed since. While working on this dam, Mr. Peffer says, he seated himself upon a large stone and in that way contracted a cold which afterwards settled on his lungs, and from the effect of which he died. He was but 66 years of age and is buried in the Mennonite Cemetery at Harmony.

He contributed land for the Mennonite church and for the cemetery. Some three acres of land are occupied by the cemetery, the church and the churchyard. He was also largely instrumental in the erection of the Mennonite church which was constructed in 1825. Rev. John Boyer was also much interested in the construction of this church and was the first preacher to occupy the pulpit, and did occupy it and preached in this church until his death, which occurred in 1828.

Mr. Zeigler died intestate and left a widow and some 11 children. His children proposed to partition the land of which he was the owner at time of his death. He had possibly sold about 2,000 acres of land and the balance of the land was divided among his children, who apportioned the land and supplied the various purports. The widow of Abraham Zeigler lived some 20 years after his death and died where she had lived for some time previous in the

brick house in the orchard, on the bank of the Connoquenessing about 500 feet down the stream from the Harmony bridge. When this house was erected in which she died the road ran along side of it and an old bridge crossed here at one time, being erected and used for many years at a point about 500 feet down stream from the present Harmony bridge.

It will be observed that Mr. Zeigler died at the age of 66, rather young, and much before his plans which he had made were carried out. He evidently did not think that he was about to die, from the fact that he did not make any will. He might have lived at least five more years and, if he had been spared, he doubtless would have more fully completed his great plans. As it was, his children were required to take charge of his land and they divided it among themselves in 1836. His oldest son, Abraham, died near the Harmony bridge in the building now owned by Mrs. B. F. Otto, received the portion of land lying immediately east and located on the left bank of the Connoquenessing creek and included the land now owned by Mrs. Otto, his granddaughter, the land owned by Samuel Zeigler, the land owned by Michael Zeigler, and others. Jonas Zeigler, another son, acquired several hundred acres on the east, which lay at a point near the Pythian Home which is now erected. The old Zeigler homestead, however, was on the right hand bank of the Connoquenessing creek and the old log house is still standing. His land ran across Little Connoquenessing creek and included the land that the Pythian Home Association now owns, as well as that owned by the Zeiglers.

Jacob Zeigler, another son, obtained as his share under the partition that part lying immediately east of his brother Jonas, and it ran from a point where the Little Connoquenessing empties into the Big Connoquenessing and up the right bank of Big Connoquenessing nearly two miles, to a point on the southwest corner of land being owned by Jacob Wise. His land lay east on the right hand bank of the Connoquenessing and extended north, including farms formerly owned by Boyer, Lither and others. The eastern extremity of his land bordered on the farm owned for many years by Jacob F. Wise and extended north to the property of old Samuel Swain, including what is known as the Narrows. Possibly his tract contained five or six hundred acres.

Samuel Zeigler, another son, had the tract immediately east of that of Jacob, and his land lay on the left bank of the Connoquenessing at what is now known as Peffer's bridge. The brick house is still in the Peffer family and was the homestead of Samuel Zeigler.

Andrew Zeigler, another son, owned the land near the mouth of Breakneck creek, and the homestead was located on the Harmony and Evans City road. The land is now occupied by a number of parties, including the Harmony Nursery Company, Martin Zinkan, and others. It lies northeast of what was then known as Nimmericks, now Harmony Junction. Joseph Zeigler, the youngest son, got the land on which Zelienople Extension is now located, as well as the farm where H. W. West formerly lived. He had three or four hundred acres, possibly more. Elizabeth Zeigler, who married Aaron Schonts, received as her portion a tract north of Harmony, known as the Schonts farm, and now owned by Israel Wise and others. It joined the Freemore Meeting House. David Zeigler obtained several hundred acres on the right bank of the Connoquenessing. The homestead still stands about 300 feet north of the Harmony bridge on the Mercer road. David was the owner of the vineyard and Rapp's Seat. Another daughter, who married a Zeigler, obtained a large tract west of Harmony, adjoining the Passavant farm. It is known as the Bush Andy Zeigler farm and is owned by W. N. Fonker and others.

Abraham Zeigler the first is known as one of the greatest of Zeiglers. Possibly only one such man would appear in a period of twenty centuries. He was a great organizer and was a man with large vision who did big things. We may little realize, after a century has passed and as we look with experienced eyes on all that a century has produced, the difficulties that Zeigler encountered. It was no small undertaking, at least for that early period before the days of railroads and before even the roads that they had to travel were anything other than mere paths, leading through the wilderness. Harmony at that time was a western outpost. Chicago had not been located and was not located for 15 years after Harmony was a thriving village. All that section of our country lying west and south of Harmony was then unexplored. He died too young to consummate his ideals; his great plans were still being carried out when the tired soul and the tired body were laid to rest.

Address delivered by John H. Wilson Thursday, August 27, 1925, at the Mennonite Church, Harmony, Pa.

To the Zeigler, Moyer, Boyer, Wise and Rice families and their friends in reunion now assembled in the shadow of the little stone Mennonite Church, nestling since 1825 on the Hill overlooking the old town of Harmony, where your forebears met to worship and on the edge of the Mennonite Cemetery where they sleep their last sleep, I extend you greetings and thank you for the invitation to be with you.

It has been my good fortune to be permitted to meet some of the great and influential of the world, but I can truthfully say that such meetings are not to be compared with the friendly smiles and hearty handclasps of the men and women here today who have known me all of my lifetime; and there is gratification in sensing that when one comes back among his boyhood friends and acquaintances that he has so lived that these old friends are proud of his success and are glad to meet and greet him.

Two distinguished members of one of your families are not here today. These two took great interest in these reunions and were diligently gathering together the data for compiling a history of the five families, to be read here today, but my friends and your kinsmen, Henry M. Wise of Zelienople, Pa., and Levi M. Wise, attorney of Butler, Pa., have passed beyond the vale separating the unknown from the known, and while their kindly smiles, hearty greetings and friendly handclasps will be missed here today, and the history they hoped to have read to you will not be read, we may trust that their sons will take up the work where they left off and have ready for you at your next reunion a complete and comprehensive history of each of the five families.

It was my purpose to talk to you of some of the strong men and women of your families that I knew as a boy, but on coming to the platform I greeted my friend and preceptor in the Harmony Collegiate Institute, Professor John C. Tintsman, a great grandson of Abraham Zeigler, the founder of this Mennonite congregation, and grandson of Abraham Tintsman, one of the early pastors of this flock. Professor Tintsman told me he expected to talk of his boyhood days in this community and, as his recollection goes farther

back than mine, I will leave the reminiscences to him and devote my time to the Centennial Celebration of this church.

As we stand beside this little stone church building, dedicated in 1825 to the worship of Almighty God in accordance with the Mennonite faith, and look across Connoquenessing creek to the town of Harmony and up the valley as far as the eye will reach we are viewing an historic landscape where experiments in Christian civilization were worked out.

At the beginning of the Nineteenth Century, George Rapp, a resident of Germany, a scholar, student of sociology, religious mystic and strong man, conceived the idea of establishing a communistic colony in the New World, and for that purpose acquired title to the six thousand acres of the Connoquenessing Valley we stand upon and view from here. In 1805 he settled here with about 500 men, women and children he brought with him from Germany and established his socialistic community, known as the Harmony Society, where there was no individual property, but each individual worked for the Society and the Society cared for him and his needs. The town of Harmony was laid out, farms were cleared, houses, barns, flour mills, woolen mill, tanneries, wagon shops, blacksmith shops, stores and the church now used by the Grace Reformed congregation, were built. The Society prospered and grew and within ten years Rapp found that his Society was producing more than its needs required and a market must be found for the surplus and felt if his colony was located on a navigable river the products could better be brought to the world's markets. He selected a new site on the Wabash river in the state of Indiana and in 1815 moved his colony to that site, where they built a town called New Harmony. This location being malarial, the colony moved in 1825 to a site on the Ohio River in Beaver County, Pa., where the town of Economy was built and where the colony flourished until about the end of the nineteenth century when, owing to the rule of celibacy, the Society expired with the death of the last of its members.

Abraham Zeigler, a Mennonite and Christian individualist from York County, Pa., came across the mountains in 1815 and purchased the town of Harmony, the six thousand acres of farms, mills, machinery, etc., from George Rapp and his associates for \$100,000, paying \$35,000 in cash and giving a mortgage for \$65,000 which he after-

wards paid. The deed to him is now in the possession of Jacob Sitler of Zelienople, Pa., one of his descendants. One hundred and ten years ago \$100,000 was a large sum of money; this was a large transaction, and Abraham Zeigler, of whom many of you here are descendants, was a big man. He brought with him or after him the Stauffers, Boyers, Moyers, Wises, Rices, Schantz and Kochers, ancestors of all of you here today, to whom he sold land holdings, or they purchased adjoining tracts.

He organized here in 1816 a congregation of the Mennonite faith and erected this stone church as a place of worship in 1825, a hundred years ago. The pastors who presided over this flock were John Boyer, Solomon Funk, Abraham Tintzman, Jacob Kulp, Joseph Zeigler and Henry Moyer, the last two of whom were well known to many of you. Since the death of Henry Moyer, no services have been held in the church.

What is the Mennonite Church and how did it obtain its name? It was named after Meno Simons, a priest of the Catholic Church in Germany, who left the Catholic Church and organized a church in Cologne, Germany, about the beginning of the Sixteenth Century.

The tenets of the church are the Bible, literally interpreted as the word of God; Non-Resistance; Unlawfulness of Oaths; Baptism by pouring. Duties of members: honesty; industry; plainness of dress and manner; not to hold public office and not to resort to law. The first church in the United States was built at Germantown, Pennsylvania, in 1683.

In 1825 when this church was built there was but little advance in the mode of living or thinking over the patriarchal days in the dawn of history, but what wonders this last one hundred years have produced—the railroad, the telegraph, the telephone, the harnessing of electricity, the automobile, the phonograph, the moving picture, the aeroplane, and the radio, scientific discoveries, the extension of the span of life, and the opportunities for education; and freedom of thought; abolishing of human slavery and the prohibition of intoxicating liquor. All these things have come to us so rapidly that we have not, perhaps, been able to adjust our institutions to the new machinery, nor our minds and characters to the responsibilities of the new freedom. But we will. Many viewing the conflicting opinions, the breaking away from the old mooring, and the daring search

for new ones are fearful and long for the good old days of simple faith and homely virtues. While in the old days there was a simple faith and the practice of virtues now apparently forgotten, there was also much of wrong and superstition, growing out of narrow limitations and lack of knowledge. We need not be fearful of knowledge. "The truth will make you free." Notwithstanding the conflict of the Modernist and the Fundamentalist over the interpretation of the Bible, the sixty-six books that make up the Bible will continue to be the great source of knowledge, guidance and inspiration for everyday life, consolation in sorrow and hope for the future.

That majestic first verse, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth." The sayings of the Prophets: "The way of the transgressor is hard," and the command, "Execute true judgment and show mercy and compassion every man to his brother; oppress not the widow nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor, and let none of you imagine evil against your brother in your heart," together with the philosophy and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth, that the way for man to develop and save his soul is by rendering service to his fellow men, have not been refuted or changed one iota by scientific discovery or increase in knowledge, but stand as eternal verities.

Truth is eternal and unchangeable, but man's interpretation of what is truth and the rules that he lays down for its application in every day life are subject to change as he increases in knowledge and experience.

We are living in the best world man ever knew. There never was a time when there was more of happiness, kindness, goodness and beauty in the world than there is today. If you are not sharing it, perhaps the fault lies in you. You sit beside a little radio box, that last wonderful invention, and you believe that the atmosphere about you is filled with beautiful music, or the expression of splendid thoughts, but the box is silent. You turn a little knob and attune it to the waves of surrounding ether and this little box emits beautiful music, song or splendid statement, so if we are to get the happiness, beauty and kindness radiating in the world about us we must be attuned to receive it. My thought is best expressed by this little poem of Edgar A. Guest:

"It's a friendly world, it's a friendly world,"
Said a genial chap to me.
"There's always a friend who will lend a hand,
Whatever your care may be.
Oh, troubles may come, but they always end,
In the joy of finding another friend."

"It's a bitter world," said the pessimist.
"It's a selfish world, and cold.
And men think only from day to day
Of copper and silver and gold.
And even the friends whom mortals choose
Are merely the men whom they hope to use."

It's a curious world, it's a curious world,
Thought I, when the talk was done.
It's a friendly world, it's a bitter world—
It's a cruel and narrow one!
It must be all that these men have found
As they've lived their lives and journeyed round.
So if one is friendly, the world will be
As friendly and gracious and kind as he.
And if one be selfish or narrow, then
He will find those faults in his fellow-men.

Tune in for what is good, kindly and joyous in the world, and
help to make the next one hundred years grander, better and happier
than the last.



Sarah Moyer Wise—1825-1908



Jacob Funck Wise—1818-1895



JOHN W. BROWN (1840-1863)

Part of an Address of Welcome delivered by Levi M. Wise at Harmony, Pa., August 31, 1905, at the Reunion of the Wise and Rice Families.

Ladies and Gentlemen: Speaking for those of the Wise and Rice families who reside here in Harmony and vicinity, I take great pleasure in extending to all a most cordial greeting and welcome. Be assured of the gratitude we feel and the joy we experience that you have selected, and have come to this historic spot, Old Harmony, where so many early scenes relating to these families have transpired.

This gathering of the multitudes seems to me like a providential occurrence. We are congregated on the spot where the Economites, who were pioneers in this locality, came just one century ago, having organized here the Harmony Society on the 15th of February, 1805.

Most of you are familiar with their history. They came here from Germany. They left their native land and came to America for the same reasons largely that the Pilgrims came to New England in 1620, and that was for more religious freedom. To worship God according to the dictates of their own conscience. Rationalism and infidelity prevailed to some extent in their native land, and the established church became impregnated with unorthodox tendencies, but the people of Wurtemberg in Germany, from which place the Economites came, adhered to the doctrines of the Bible and the simple faith which it teaches. Many of the common people took to studying the Bible diligently and, one in particular, George Rapp, the founder of the Harmonites, began to teach and preach in that place. He was a man of remarkable magnetic influence. He was pious, kind, and a noble man. He was a son of a farmer and vine planter and was born in Wurtemberg, October 28, 1757. He received a common school education. He was brought up like many another lad in that community, working on the farm in the summer and weaving in the winter. In 1783 he married and afterwards two children were born to him, a son, John Rapp, who died of consumption in 1812, and lies buried in the Economite grave yard here at Harmony; and a daughter, Rosina, who died of old age in 1849. She is buried at Economy.

He was fond of reading and of studying the scriptures. He was an excellent conversationalist and a student of humanity as well

It is a pleasure to have you here, and I am sure you will find the work of the Society very interesting.

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as books. Through his teaching and preaching he in time gathered about him a large number of followers. He importuned them to obey the laws of their land strictly, both of church and state. Nevertheless, the clergy excited the civil authorities against them and a little later those who were proven guilty of attending his meetings were either fined or imprisoned. The king was petitioned and upon inquiry he learned that the offenders were orderly citizens and transgressed no law, but their opponents continued to molest them until at length Rapp and some of the rest thought it best to leave their native land and find on a foreign shore freedom to worship God as their conscience dictated.

Accordingly, in 1803, at the request of his disciples, Rapp visited America, accompanied by his son John and a few others. He visited portions of Maryland, Pennsylvania, and Ohio, and after investigating here, found, in the beautiful valley of the Connoquenessing, suitable lands in which to found his colony. He purchased of Dr. Detmer Basse, who was then living in the valley at Zelienople, about 5,000 acres of unimproved land. He subsequently purchased other lands, so that before they left here they had over 7,000 acres. He notified his people of what he had done and, in the spring of 1804, 300 of them sailed from Amsterdam in Holland and on the 4th day of July landed at Baltimore. Some six weeks later, accompanied by Frederick Rapp, a like number arrived in Philadelphia, having taken passage on another ship. A third ship brought the remainder of his followers. Most of the last named were prevailed upon to make a settlement in the northern part of the state.

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The first party arriving at Baltimore remained there largely over the following winter. Many of the able-bodied men came on to Harmony to prepare homes for the colonists. The winter was one of toil and hardship, but the following February, 1805, the homes were ready. Up to this time there was not as yet a common purse, and each family had paid its own expenses from the time they left their native land until Harmony was reached, but on the 15th of February, 1805, the society was organized here. Those who had wealth and those who had little, alike cheerfully added their possessions to the common fund. The houses, as you observe, were built as nearly alike as possible. The uniform style of dress was adopted. In short, they strove to maintain the principle of equality

in everything. The town very appropriately was named Harmony. In the spring about 50 additional families who had passed the winter in the east and elsewhere arrived and joined the community. A few did not join and were soon merged in the great American population.

Subsequently, a number of families became dissatisfied and withdrew with their funds. This added to the trials which already beset the community, but despite these drawbacks the society, with a membership of about 125 families or so, about 700 persons, were with its work under the wise and encouraging leadership of Father Rapp. The few thousands of dollars which they had brought with them from the fatherland had been invested in land and the funds were now practically exhausted. The society engaged in the work of clearing land, cultivating the soil, erecting buildings and following trades. The amount of work they accomplished was surprising. During the first year they cleared 150 acres, erected 40 or 50 log cabins, built a house of worship, a grist mill, shops, large barns, etc. The following year 450 acres were added and a vineyard of four acres was planted. During the year 1809, after they were here some four years, they raised 6,000 bushels of corn, 5,000 bushels of wheat and rye, oats and potatoes in like proportion.

Five years from the organization of the society the Harmonists numbered 140 families or possibly some 800 persons. All kinds of trades were represented among them. They now had 2,000 acres of land under cultivation and were a busy, industrious, hard working people. It is really surprising the progress they made and the manufactures they established in this little republic which they had set up. They made this wilderness which they found to blossom as the rose. They did more essential good for this country in the short period during which they were here than the same number of families scattered about the country could have done in 50 years. This was due largely from their unity and brotherly love, added to their uniform and persevering industry. They knew no mercenary view, no selfish interest, except that which added to the interest and good of the community. All were equally industrious, for an idler had no companion. If any should fall into the bad practice of idleness, he was kindly admonished by the family backed by the countenances and wishes of the rest, but if found incorrigible, he was expelled from the society.

All attended the place of worship twice on the Sabbath day. They built the church now occupied by the German Reformed congregation in the village. They gave serious audience to the words of the venerable father and preacher, George Rapp, who from his manner appeared devoted to the spiritual and temporal interests of his flock. The children were kept in school from 6 to 14 and then put to such trades as they might choose.

Father Rapp was the head of the society, both in spiritual and temporal affairs and his word was law. He was prophet, priest and king. The reverence of his people toward him grew as the years advanced. Some of his people witnessing his vigor and energy in old age, were weak enough to believe that Father Rapp would never die, or at least that he would abide until the Lord's coming. He died on the 7th day of August, 1847, being almost 90 years of age. He is buried on the banks of the Ohio at Economy.

As I have said before, he was a remarkable man and he performed a remarkable work. Had he been a propagandist and lived in a different age and country, he might have been known as the founder of a new sect or nation, but he had no other thought than that of the welfare of a small body of people who had followed him from Germany for the purpose of serving God in their own way. He left his impression upon the society which still exists with diminished numbers.

Frederick Rapp, the adopted son of Father Rapp, was likewise a man of able talent. His proper name was Frederick Reichert. He was born in 1775 and died in 1834. He is buried at Economy. Father Rapp's time having been fully taken up with the home management, to Frederick Rapp was intrusted all business negotiations with those not members of the society, as well as the making of business trips from Harmony to Pittsburgh, to Philadelphia and elsewhere when necessary. He was a man of culture and of literary interests and a good musician. Some of the society's hymns were composed by him and in the absence of Father Rapp he was accustomed to officiate as preacher.

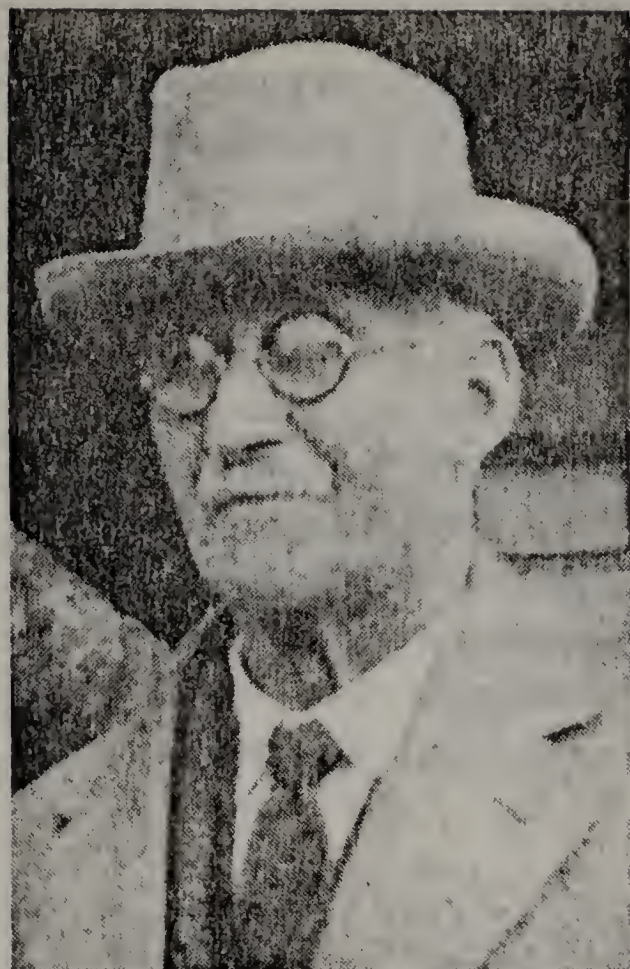
It is natural for us to suppose that the life of the members of the Harmony Society was a life of ceaseless toil. They were not

boons and they had their social pleasures and amusements and doubtless enjoyed life fully as much as is usual with any thrifty and industrious people. They were fond of music and many were skilled in instrumental practice. Their religious exercises were always accompanied by the singing of the whole congregation led by a skillful choir. The family of Father Rapp fared no better than the rest in the manner of dress or style of living.

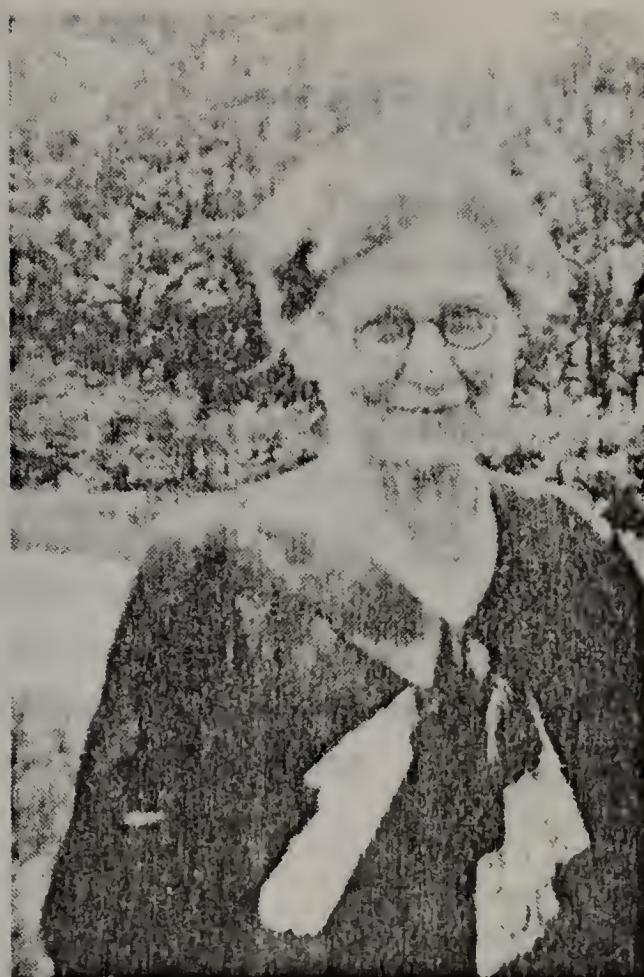
In 1807, under the influence of a religious revival, they were led to abjure marriage as a hindrance to holiness, such as they desired to attain. After that celibacy was practiced. This was not compulsory, but encouraged. The doctrine taught by Father Rapp in brief is this: "A doctrine of future rewards and punishments" but did not teach the doctrine of everlasting punishment.

During their 10-year stay at Harmony, 100 of them died. They lie in the grave yard, enclosed by a beautiful wall which they erected in 1878 at a cost of nearly \$8,000. When they left Harmony, this church yard was enclosed by a board fence and the yard itself was thickly covered with stone. These were removed when the stone fence was erected. But one tombstone is within the yard and it is standing against the stone fence. The inscription upon it indicates, and we are told, that some member of the society had intended it to be erected over the grave of John Rapp, who died in 1812. The leader, upon learning of its preparation and proposed erection, forbade them from doing so. The stone arch over the stone gateway to this cemetery, among other things, bears this inscription: "Here lie 100 members of the Harmony Society who died from 1805 to 1815."

When the Economites left Harmony it was a far larger and more prosperous village than it is today. There were a number of grist mills, some large barns, and a number of industries carried on here. As stated before, they went to the state of Indiana, having purchased some 24,000 acres of land in Posey County on the Wabash river. They remained here some 10 years when they returned to Economy, some 12 miles from Harmony, where a small number of them still remain. . . .



Alfred M. Wise



Sarah Wise Moore



Levi M. Wise

HARVEST HOME

The Harvest Home, one of the three annual feasts of the Harmony Society, was inaugurated here in 1805. A large barn was thrown open to the people and the feast spread. This consisted of the products of the farm, with native wine, whiskey, beer, sauerkraut, rice and ginger cakes. They interpreted Chapter XXIII of Exodus as a warranty for the three feasts—the "Love Feast" in early spring, the "Harvest Home" when the small grains were in, and the "Feast of the Ingathering" when harvest was over. On February 15, each year, from 1806 to 1815, the Economites held their feasts, and the English-speaking pioneers were always welcome guests. After the departure of the Rapp colonists the feasts were observed, at intervals, by the successors in occupation, but after the removal of the Nixons to Penn Township the Harvest Home was held there.

The following biographical data, written in 1947, concerning the family is furnished largely by Israel M. Wise of Zelienople, only surviving brother of Levi M. Wise, who is now in his 84th year:

JOHN LANDIS WISE

My great grandfather, John Landis Wise, was born in 1790 in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. He emigrated in 1830 to Beaver County, Pa., locating on a farm. His wife, Mary, was born in Bucks County, June 11, 1791. She died August 30, 1870, at the age of seventy-nine years. He died August 26, 1856, at the age of sixty-five years. They had eight children, Jacob, Samuel, Kylean, John, Catherine, Henry, Hannah and Mary Wise.

John was about two years old when they emigrated to Beaver County. They came over the mountains in a bolster covered wagon, drawn by a team of oxen. The journey took about ten days. They were Mennonites and both are buried in the Mennonite cemetery at Harmony. All of the children except Jacob were born in Beaver County. John settled in Harmony in 1831, following the occupation of weaving and cloth dressing.



Picture taken in the spring of 1936 at a family reunion held at the John Loyal Wise home. Left to right: Noah, Molly, Susannah and Israel. Note the family characteristic, the jaw.

JACOB FUNK WISE

My grandfather, Jacob Funk Wise, was born in Bucks County, Pa., January 12, 1818. He emigrated with his parents when he was about two years to Beaver County on a farm. When he grew to manhood he came to Harmony, Butler County, and worked for Abraham Zeigler II. He married Abraham's daughter, Mary Zeigler, and to them were born five children, including twin boys, Jacob and John. Abraham (or Abram) died in infancy, and the names of the other children were Nancy and Mary Wise. She died November 27, 1850, at the age of twenty-one years. Jacob Z. Wise died at the age of twenty-six years. John Z. Wise died August 18, 1874, at the age of twenty-seven years. They were never married. Nancy Z. Wise married Jacob W. Rice, who was a farmer. They had seven children, Jacob, Lincoln, Harvey, Dianah, Lizzie, Nettie and Nancy Rice. Nancy was born in 1875, and died in 1882.

Jacob F. Wise was a farmer by occupation, owning a tract of three hundred acres along the Connoquenessing valley and it was one of the richest and best farms in Butler County. He built those big buildings which are still on the farm. (Farm called the John Voegtley farm.) He built the barn in 1870 and in 1872 built the brick house which has thirteen rooms.

He was twice married, his second wife being Sarah Moyer, daughter of Benjamin Moyer of Lancaster Township, Butler County. They were the parents of ten children, all of whom were raised at the old homestead. He sold the old homestead in 1886 to a Mr. Voegtley and moved down near Harmony on the Shontz farm which was called the Drover's Inn. He worked this farm until he died December 15, 1895, at the age of seventy-seven years. This second farm that he lived on was run down, but now it is one of the best dairy farms in Butler County.

His second wife (my grandmother) died October 29, 1908, at the age of eighty-three, after which his son Israel M. Wise bought the farm and lived on it until he retired and moved in 1923 to Zelienople. The Butler County fair was held on his farm for ten years or until the year 1886, and then it broke up.

There were forty-two grandchildren, and sixty-one great grandchildren.

MARY (MOLLIE) ZEIGLER WISE

Mary Zeigler Wise (my aunt Mollie of Petersville) was born July 13, 1848. She lived and worked on her father's farm until she grew to womanhood. She was a highly respected and much esteemed lady. She attended the country school of Jackson Township and was then married to Conrad Nicklas on June 14, 1871, an enterprising and successful young business man. He was born in Connoquenessing Township, Butler County, and spent his life in this section. He died August 1, 1899, at the age of fifty-six. He was a leading general merchant of this place.

They had five children, Mary, Bertha, Feid P., Nancy, Gertrude (deceased), Jacob and Conrad Nicklas. Mr. and Mrs. Nicklas were members of the English Lutheran Church for many years and he was a member of the board of trustees.

Aunt Mollie died at the age of ninety. She was a widow for forty years.

ALFRED M. WISE

Alfred M. Wise was born in 1850. His occupation was a livery man. He stayed on his father's farm and helped with the farm work until he went into the livery business at Harmony, and then he left Harmony and went to Butler, where he engaged in the livery business. He was a lover of horses.

In 1874 he married Adda Covert and died in 1928 at the age of seventy-six. They had five children, of which the first died in infancy, the others being Annie, Charles, Kitty (Florence), and Clyde Wise.

HENRY M. WISE

Henry M. Wise was born on January 1, 1854. He was a substantial citizen and leading business man of Harmony, where he conducted an extensive lumber business. After completing the usual district school course, he attended the school in Zelienople for six months, where better advantages were afforded. He then entered the Harmony Savings Bank as cashier and remained there until 1884. He then became engaged in the lumber business until he died February 4, 1924.

He was vice-president of the First National Bank of Zelenople until the two banks merged, and had many other interests. In politics he was a Republican and served three terms as justice of the peace. He was an influential member of his party and for a number of years he served on the Republic County Committee.

He was married to Nettie Lusk in 1877. They had two children, Howard and Joseph Wise. Joseph died in infancy. They were members of the Presbyterian church.

BENJAMIN M. WISE

Benjamin M. Wise was born in 1855 and worked on his father's farm for many years. When he married he left to work in the mills. He lived in Spokane, Washington, at one time. He came back to live in Harmony and then he moved to Akron, Ohio, to work in the shops. He died in 1925 and he and his wife are buried in the Mennonite Cemetery.

He was married to Agnes Schuler who died in 1919. They had two children, Grace and Frank Wise, and they were members of the Methodist church. He was a kind and loving brother and a kind father.

SUSANNAH M. WISE

Susannah M. Wise was born in 1858. She was postmistress of Harmony for a long time. Gifted with a beautiful alto voice, she sang in the choir of the Grace Reformed church for many years.

She was married to Jacob Feidler, who was a plasterer by trade for a long time. He then became a teamster in the oil field until he died in 1897. Susannah died June 8, 1935.

They had five children, Mabel, Alice, Sarah, and Emalene Feidler. One died in infancy. They were members of the Grace Reformed Church of Harmony.

JEREMIAH M. WISE

Jeremiah M. Wise was born October 30, 1861. He worked on his father's farm of three hundred acres in Jackson Township, Butler County, Pennsylvania, until he died with typhoid fever, October 15, 1881. He was nineteen years of age.

SARAH ANN WISE

Sarah Ann Wise was born in 1865. She married James Ray Moore who was an Englishman. They took a trip to Norfolk, England, in 1882. He was a bookkeeper in Pittsburgh. His widow died December 29, 1930, in Ben Avon. They had five children, among which there were twins. They were Jacob, Thomas, Florence, Jean and Eleanor Moore.

She was a very fine looking girl, full of life and jolly at all times. She attended the school of Jackson Township and worked on her father's farm for a long time. She then married and left the farm and moved to Ben Avon, where she lived until her death.

ISRAEL M. WISE

Israel M. Wise was born May 12, 1863, in Butler County, Pa., and is one of the leading farmers and dairymen of this section. The Wise family originally came from Germany and its first settlement in America was at Bucks County, Pa., by the great grandfather of Israel M. Wise. He moved to Beaver County, Pa., where he died when fifty years old. Jacob F. Wise, the father of this family, lived to be seventy-seven years old, and his widow survived him thirteen years, her death taking place October 29, 1908. She was eighty-two years old.

They were excellent people, industrious, kind-hearted and charitable people. Israel M. attended school in Jackson Township when he was a boy and made farming his business.

After the death of his father he purchased the second homestead farm and devoted himself to the cultivation and improvement of the farm. In addition to raising corn, oats, hay and potatoes as his main crops, he also carried on a profitable dairy business.

In 1891 he married Mary Peffer, who is a daughter of John Peffer. They have two sons, John Loyal and Paul Wise. Mr. and Mrs. Wise are members of the Grace Reformed Church of Harmony. In politics he is a Republican. He pays close attention to his business and has never served in any public office except as a member of the school board. In 1888 he was elected a deacon, serving for many years in that office and in later years was elected an elder and continued in that capacity until he resigned in 1929. He was then honored as a member Emeritus and still holds that position.

He was also the superintendent of the Sunday school for many years and sang in the Grace Reformed Church choir for fifty years. He taught singing school for one year in the different townships and was chosen trustee of the Grace Reformed Cemetery, of which he was the caretaker for forty years. He was active in grange work and assisted in the organization of the Jackson Grange in 1911. He became a charter member, was its first overseer and held different offices of the Grange. Mr. Wise was also a director of the First National Bank of Zelienople and continued in that office until the consolidation of the First National and Peoples National Banks.

Mr. and Mrs. Wise observed their golden wedding anniversary and about fifty friends came to celebrate the occasion. They are prominent residents of Zelienople and have lived in Jackson Township their entire lives. In 1923 they left the farm and retired to Zelienople, where they now reside.

NOAH M. WISE

Noah M. Wise was born on June 14, 1869. He stayed on the old homestead, grew to manhood and then went to work in the shops. He married Hannah Zehner of Zelienople, Pa. She died in 1935 at the age of sixty-four. She was born in 1871. Noah died in 1946.

To them were born four children, Florence, Edwin, Sarah and Zehner Wise.

They belonged to the Lutheran Church at Zelienople, Pa.

Noah worked for the Natural Gas Company. He also teamed in the oil field in Kansas City for Edward Staffer for some time and later came back to Harmony to work in the oil fields of Butler County.

KATHERINE WISE

Katherine Wise was born in 1868 and stayed on the old homestead until she married Edward Staffer of Harmony. He was an oil contractor in the oil field in Kansas City, Mo., and in Butler County, Pa. His wife died June 3, 1888, at the age of twenty-one years. They had one child, Lee, who died in infancy. Kitty was a great musician and played in the church and Sunday school of the Grace Reformed Church at Harmony, Pa.

KYLEON M. WISE

Kyleon M. Wise was a farmer in Illinois with his wife, Rebecca. Have no dates of them. They had nine children.

Noah Moyer Wise married Hannah Zehner and they had four children, Florence Carbeau Judd, Edwin, Sarah and Zehner Wise. Florence had three boys, William, Robert, and Bernard; Edwin married Helen Duncan and they had Edwin, Jr., and Jerry.

Alfred M. Wise was married to Adaline Covert and they had four children, Charles, Clyde, Mrs. Joseph (Anna) Harvey and Mrs. George S. Kurtz (Florence Genevieve "Kit"). The Harveys had three children, Forest LaMont, Mary Lucille and Margarete. The Kurtzs had two children, Helen and George Jr.

Henry Moyer Wise married Nettie Lusk and they had two sons, Howard and Joseph. Howard married Ruth Anne Anderson and they had one son, Henry.

Susanna Moyer Wise married Jacob Fiedler and they had four daughters, Mabel, Alice, Sarah and Emmaline. Mabel married John Wallace, no children; Alice married Robert Loudon, two children, Marion and Robert; Sarah married Ralph Cunningham, one girl, Jane; Emmaline married Roy Smith, three children, William, Daniel and Gretchen.

Israel Moyer Wise married Mary Pepper and they had two boys, John Loyal Wise and Paul Pepper Wise. John Loyal had two sons, John H. Wise and David C. Wise. Paul Pepper Wise had three sons, Tom, and twins, William and Robert.

Levi Moyer Wise married Bertha Rebecca Laing and they had four boys, John L. Wise, Gerald, Clarence and Vernon, and one daughter, Marion, who married Earl Zinn. They have one son, David. John married Ruth Clark and they have two children, John, Jr., and Marilyn. Gerald married Jeanne Blake and they have two children, Brenda and Gerald, Jr. Vernon married Mary Margaret Veach and they have three children, Vernon, Jr., and twins, David and Mary Virginia. Vernon, Jr., married Sarah Jayne Cromwell and they have two children, Vernon, III, and Jamie. Mary Virginia married William C. Prettyman and they have three children, William D., Mary Louise and Jeffrey.

Sarah Ann Wise, wife of James Ray Moore, had five children, Florence, twins, Jacob and Thomas, Jean and Eleanore Ray. Eleanore Ray Moore married William A. Lowrie and they had three boys—William A., Jr., Thomas Moore and Arthur Lewis Lowrie. Arthur Lewis Lowrie has three children—Claire Ellen, Amy Lynn and Theodore William.

Jacob Funck Wise, born January 12, 1818—died December 19, 1895.

Mary Zeigler Wise, born 1822—died November 27, 1850.

Sarah Moyer Wise, born February 20, 1826—died October 29, 1908.

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Born to Jacob and Mary Zeigler Wise:

Abraham, born January 29, 1844—died in infancy.

Nancy, born August 19, 1845—died June 29, 1882.

Jacob and John (twins), born February 27, 1847: Jacob died June 23, 1873; John died August 18, 1874.

Mollic, born February 10, 1849—died March 25, 1939.

Born to Jacob and Sarah Moyer Wise:

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Alfred, born August 6, 1852—died December 29, 1929.

Henry, born January 1, 1854—died February 4, 1924.

Benjamin, born October 4, 1855—died 1925.

Susannah, born February 22, 1858—died June 8, 1935.

Levi, born February 2, 1860—died December 5, 1924.

Jeremiah, born October 30, 1861—died October 15, 1881.

Israel, born May 12, 1863—died November 28, 1948.

Sarah, born July 29, 1865—died December 29, 1930.

Catharine, born March 24, 1867—died June 3, 1888.

Noah, born June 14, 1869—died June 13, 1946.

"Twins" record in the Wise family:

Grandfather Weisz (1816-1895), two wives. By first had twin boys, John and Jacob.

Grandmother Weisz's sister (related to the Texter's) had twins.

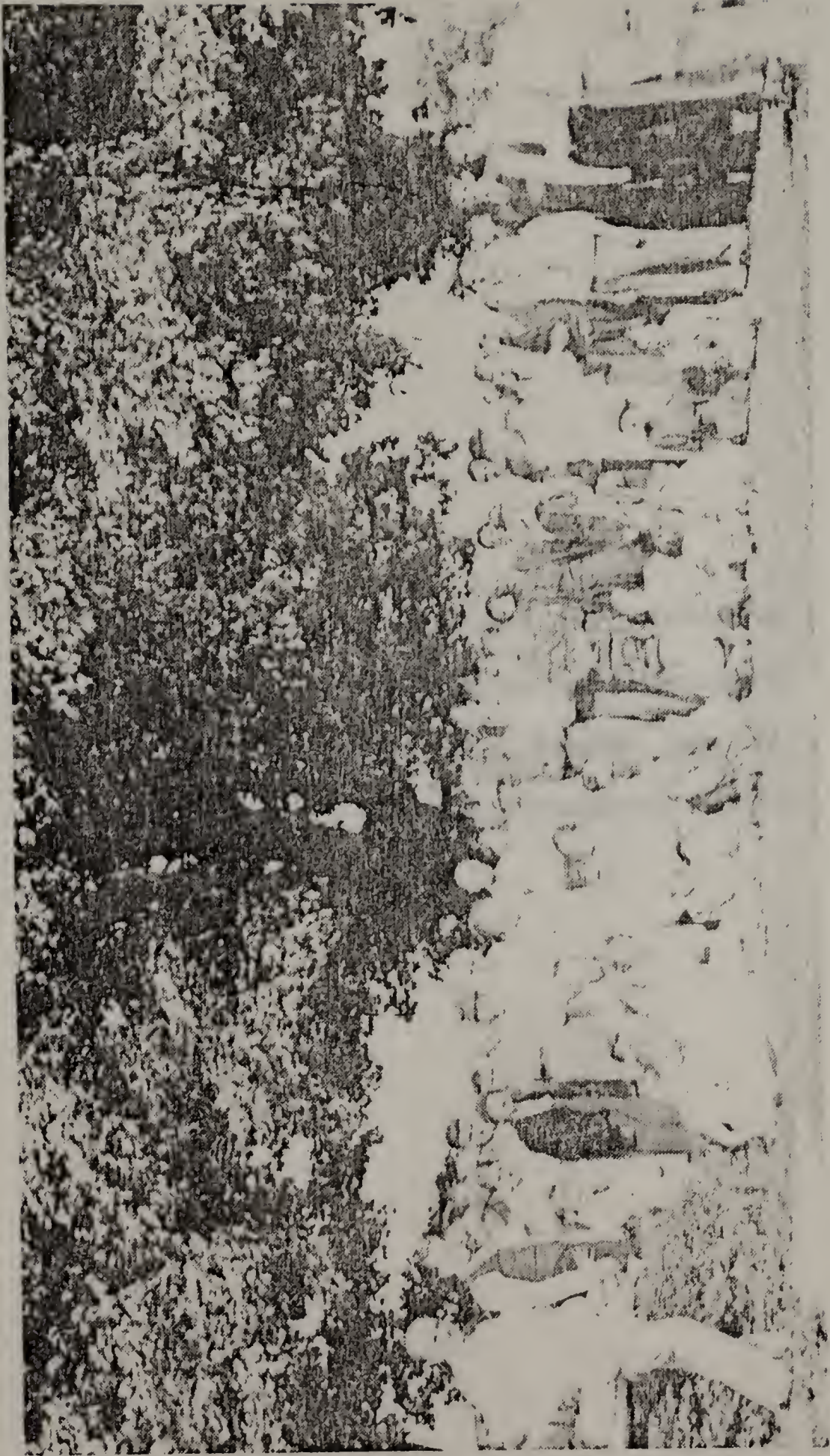
Sarah Ann Moore had twin boys, Jacob and Thomas.

Dinah Frishkorn (granddaughter of Jacob F. Wise) had twins.

His great granddaughter, Marie Eiler, had twin girls.

Grandson Paul Wise of Harmony had twin boys, William and Robert.

Grandson Vernon Laing Wise had twin boy and girl, David and Mary Virginia.



September, 1933, Reunion—John Loyal Wise Home, Harmony, Pa.

This short history printed July, 1962, for
presentation at the Reunion of the Descendants
of Jacob Funck Wise, held Sunday, July 22,
1962, at Lancaster Township Community Center.

